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OR

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.

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NATURAL HISTORY.

(*From Good's Book of Nature.—Continued.*)

ON ZOOLOGICAL SYSTEMS, AND THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS OF ANIMALS.

The SECOND ORDER, BRUTA, or BRUTE-BEASTS, is distinguished by having no fore-teeth in either jaw. It includes the nine following kinds: rhinoceros, suckotyro, elephant, trichecus,—the morse, walrus, manate or lamantin, the dolphin of the poets of Greece and Rome, by whom it has been celebrated for its love of music, and perhaps not altogether without foundation;—the bradypus or sloth, the myrmecophagus or ant-eater, the manis or pangolin, the dasypus or armadillo, and the platypus or duck-bill, the ornithorhynchus *paradoxus* of Blumenbach, that curious little quadruped which has hitherto only been discovered in Australia, or the regions in and about New South Wales, and which seems to be a quadruped by its feet, a water-fowl by its bill, and an amphibial by its fondness for water. It is not yet quite certain whether this singular animal suckles its young, or has a mammary organ for this purpose; and if not, it must be discarded from its present situation, though we should be at no small loss to know where else to place it.

The THIRD CLASS of MAMMALS is denominated FERÆ or SAVAGE BEASTS, and is distinguished by having, in every instance, fore-teeth, above and below, the number varying in different kinds, from two to ten; and in possessing a solitary tusk. The order comprises eleven kinds, the names of which are as follows: the phoca or seal, a water quadruped, whose skin is so useful to us for various purposes, and which, like the stag, is found to shed tears when in trouble: the canis or dog-kind, including the numerous families of wolf, fox, jackal, hyæna; the felis or cat-kind, including a variety of tribes of a somewhat similar appearance, but far mightier, and nobler in their powers, as the lynx, the leopard, the panther, the tiger, and the lion, all of which have a power of climbing trees, though the weight of the larger species makes them do it very awkwardly, and only to a short height; all of which pitch on their feet in falling; and all of which see better in the night than by day; the viverra, including the ichneumon and several of the weasels; the mustela, including other species of the weasels, the stoat, polecat, otter, ferret, sable, and ermine, to the last two of which we are indebted for the luxurious dresses that pass under their name. Almost all of the mustelas have a power of secreting and discharging a most fetid and intolerable stench at their will; and many of them do it as a means of defence; and often so effectually that the very beast that pursues them is compelled to relinquish the chase, so completely is he overpowered by its noisome vapour. The remainder of this order are the ursus or bear; the didelphis or opossum; the marcopius or kangaroo, which is now naturalising in the royal parks of our own country; the talpa or mole; the sorex or shrew; and the erinaceus or hedgehog; which last is capable of being tamed, and is actually tamed by the Calmucs, and made a very useful domestic servant in destroying mice, toads, beetles, and other vermin.

The FOURTH ORDER of mammalian animals is denominated GLIRES, for which we may use the words HIBERNATERS or BURROWERS. They are distinguished by having two fore-teeth in each jaw, close to each other, but remote from the grinders; and by being without tusks. They all, in a greater or less degree, burrow in the earth, and almost all of them sleep through the whole or a great part of the winter. To this order, therefore, we can all of us, of our own accord, refer the ten following kinds, which are the whole that are included under it. The hystrix or porcupine; the cavia or cavy; the castor or beaver; the mus genus, comprehending the numerous families of the mouse and rat; the arctomys or marmot; the sciurus or squirrel, some of which have a long flying membrane that enables them to vault from tree to tree, like some species of the lemur; the myoxus or dormouse; the dipus or jerboa, whose form resembles the kangaroo, but whose habits the dormouse; the lepus, comprising the hare and rabbit tribes; and the hyrax or daman: with most of which we are too well acquainted to require any detailed account in so cursory a survey as the present.

The PECORA or CATTLE kinds form the next or FIFTH ORDER, and comprehend those horned quadrupeds which are most familiar and most useful to us. To this division, therefore, necessarily belong the bos, ovis, capra, and cervus kinds; or, in our own language, the ox, sheep, goat, and deer; and as connected with these, in habits as well as in external appearance, the moschus, antilope, camelus—the musk, antelope, camel, and camel-leopard, or giraffe. They are ordinally distinguished by being without upper fore-teeth, but having six or eight in the lower jaw, remote from the grinders. They have all four stomachs, are hoofed, and have the hoof divided in the middle; and, except the camel, have two false hoofs, which in walking do not touch the ground. Such as have horns have no tusks, and such as have tusks have no horns; they ruminate or chew the cud; and from the torpid action of their multifid digestive canal, are apt to have balls form in different parts of it, owing to the frequent concretion of their food, occasionally intermixed, but more usually covered with a quantity of hair, which they lick from their bodies.—Some of these balls are of a whitish hue, and will bear a fine polish, and are known by the name of bezoards. These are chiefly the production of the antelope kind, and were formerly in very high estimation as amulets and febrifuges.

The SIXTH ORDER of mammals embraces the BELLUÆ or WARRIOR KINDS, possessing both upper and lower fore-teeth, and hoofed feet. The order consists of only four genera: the equus or horse, mule, and ass tribes; the hippopotamus or river-horse; the tapir, which in appearance and habits makes an approach to the river-horse, but is smaller in size; and the numerous families of the sus or swine kind.

The LAST ORDER under the mammalian class consists of the CETE or WHALE KINDS, and embraces the monodon, sea-unicorn or narwahl; balæna, common whale; physeter, cachalot, or spermaceti whale; and delphinus or dolphin, including, as two of its species, the phocœna or porpoise, the orca or grampus, and the dugong.

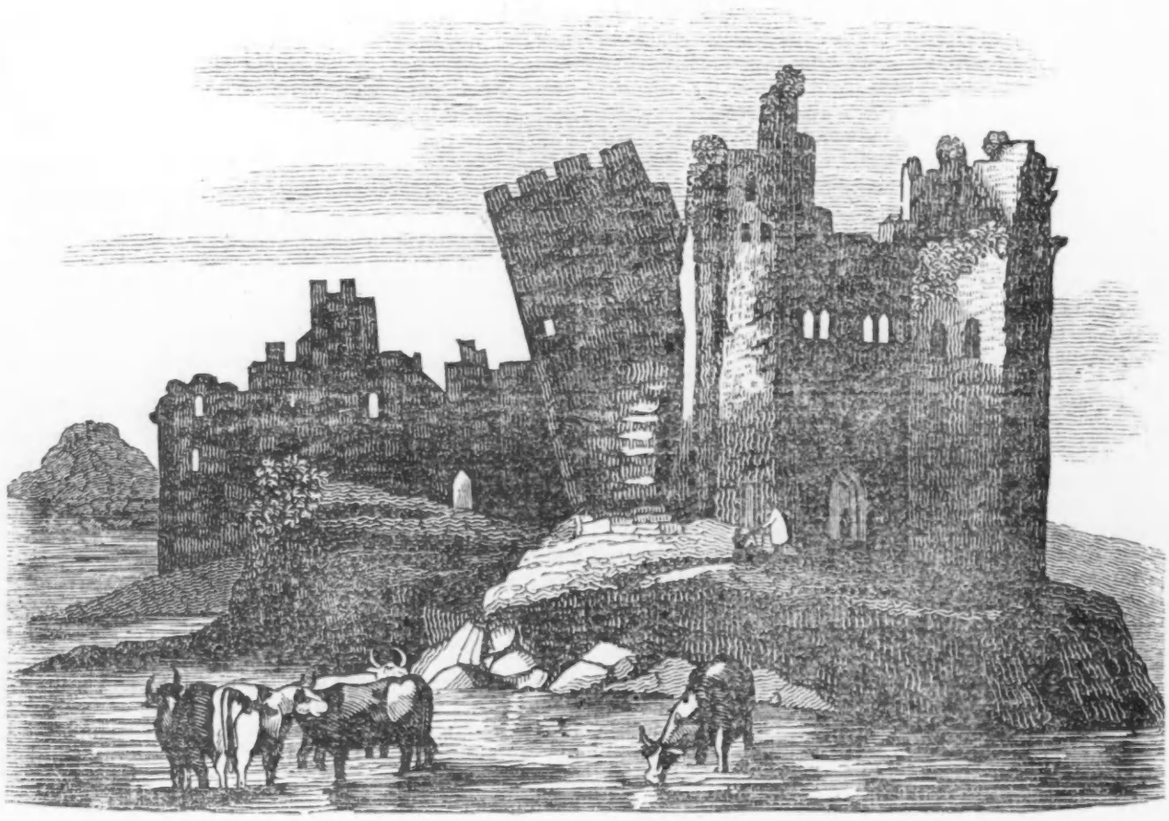
There is some force in introducing these sea-monsters into the same class with quadrupeds; but they are still continued here by M. Cuvier. They have a general concurrence of structure in the heart, lungs, back-

bone, and organ for suckling; but their teeth have little resemblance; and they have neither nostrils, feet, nor hair; instead of nostrils, possessing a spiracle or blowing-hole on the fore and upper part of the head; and instead of feet, fins; in which, as well as in their habits, manners, and residence in the waters, they have a close resemblance to fishes. These are chiefly inhabitants of the polar seas, and several of the larger species afford materials that are highly valuable as articles of commerce or manufactures. All of them produce a considerable quantity of blubber or the basis of the coarser animal oils; the common whale sometimes to as large a quantity as 6 or 8,000 lbs. weight: from the horny laminæ of whose upper jaw, as well as from that of the balæna *Physalus* or fin-fish, we obtain also extensive layers of whalebone; while the cachalot supplies us with spermaceti from its head, and with abergris from some of its digestive organs; a substance, however, only to be procured from such organs when the animal is in a state of sickness. The most warlike of the order is the grampus, which will often engage with a cachalot or common whale of double its size, and continue the contest till it has destroyed it.

To this order also belongs the dugong or sea-cow of Sumatra, which has of late excited so much attention among naturalists. It was at one time supposed to be a hippopotamus or river-horse, but Sir Thomas Raffles has of late sufficiently proved it to be a cetaceous mammal. It is usually taken on the Malacca coast by spearing; its length is often from eight to nine feet. Its front extremities are two finny paddles; its only hind extremity is its tail, which is a very powerful instrument. It is never found on land or in fresh water, but generally in the shallows and inlets of the sea; the breasts of the adult females are of a large size, and especially during the time of suckling. Its food seems to consist entirely of fuci and submarine algæ, which it finds and browses upon at the bottom of the shallow inlets of the sea, where it chiefly inhabits. Its flesh resembles that of young beef, and is very delicate and juicy.*

* Phil. Trans. 1820, p. 174

LEANING TOWERS.



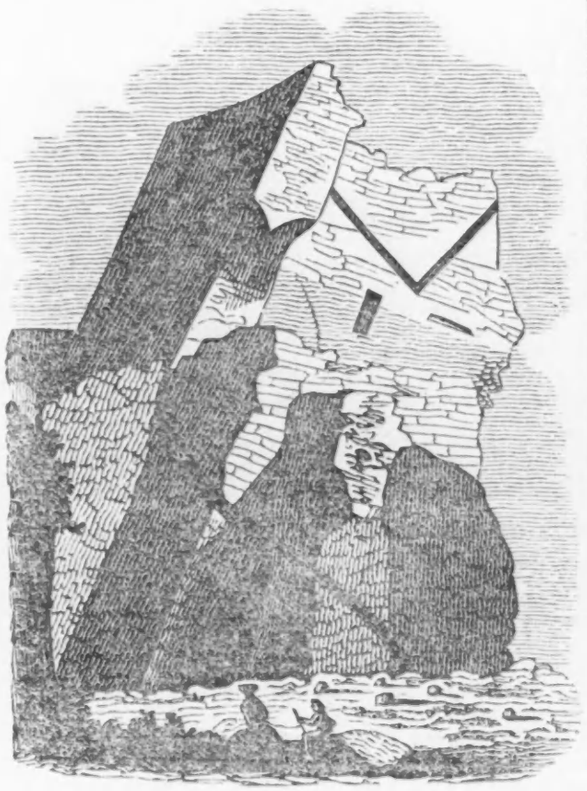
CAERPHILLY CASTLE, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE most remarkable leaning tower in Great Britain is that of Caerphilly Castle, in Glamorganshire: indeed, in proportion to its height, it is much more inclined from the perpendicular than any other in the world of which we can find an account, for it is between 70 and 80 feet high, and 11 feet out of the perpendicular. It rests only on part of its south side, principally by the strength of its cement, the manner of making which is unknown to modern masons, except to a partial extent. The singularity of its position is best observed by looking at it from the inside, or from the moat immediately underneath it, from whence the effect of the apparently falling mass is most extraordinary. The castle, of which this tower forms a part, was built about A. D. 1221; that which previously stood on the same spot having been razed to the ground by the Welsh, in an attempt to free themselves from the yoke of their Norman Conquerors. It is inferior in extent only to Windsor Castle, and must have been one of the most magnificent in the kingdom, its various outbuildings and fortifications covering nearly eleven acres; it is situated on a small plain, bounded by rising ground of very moderate elevation, about nine miles north of Cardiff. It is still a noble ruin, and the great hall is particularly worthy of notice. The fine form of its Gothic windows, and the clustered flying pillars which project from different sides of the room, and from which spring the vaulted arches of the roof, give an uncommon charm to the justness of its proportions.

The cause of the inclination of the tower alluded to is not a little singular. The unfortunate King Edward the Second, and his favourites the Spencers, were here

besieged by the forces of the Queen, and many powerful Barons in 1326. The defence was long and bravely conducted, and the besiegers were particularly annoyed by metal in a melted state being thrown down on them, which was heated in furnaces still remaining at the foot of the tower, and during their partial success in a desperate assault, (which ultimately failed,) they let the metal, which was red hot, run out of the furnaces, and, either from ignorance or design, threw water from the moat on it, which caused a violent explosion, tore the tower from its foundations, and hurled it into its present position. The solidity of its wall is amazing, and it has resisted the ravages of time in a remarkable manner, the only rents now visible having been caused by the explosion; the storms of more than five hundred years have scarcely displaced a stone from the summit, and the whole surface is almost without a flaw.

The castle at length surrendered, the king, whose tragical end is familiar to all, having previously escaped. The Spencers were beheaded at Bristol, and their castle never regained its ancient splendour. It had long been the dread of the neighboring Welch, to restrain whose frequent risings it was built; a song by one of their Bards is yet preserved, in which he prays that his enemy's "soul may go to Caerphilly;" and "going to Caerphilly," in a similar sense, was by no means an uncommon phrase in that country.



BRIDGENORTH CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE.

The leaning towers at Bridgenorth Castle in Shropshire and at Corfe Castle in Dorsetshire, are both much inferior to that at Caerphilly. They were placed in their present position by the use of gunpowder in the civil war which unhappily raged between King Charles and his Parliament. Whether they were mined or battered is not certain. Corfe Castle was bravely defended for some time by Lady Banks, who, although her husband, the Chief Justice of England, was absent, compelled the troops of the Parliament to raise the siege; who were thus, in the words of one of our best modern poets, alluding to the defence of Saragossa,

Foil'd by a woman's hand before a shatter'd wall.

The present state of these towers is not without its moral; for, in recalling to our thoughts times happily for us gone by, when the fury of faction and the violence of civil war rent the kingdom to its foundation, disfiguring and distorting what they yet failed to destroy, we may look upon such ruins at once as monuments of the past, and as warnings for the future.—*Saturday Mag.*

PITCH LAKE OF TRINIDAD.

Near Point la Braye, Tar Point, the name assigned to to it on account of its characteristic feature, in the island of Trinidad, is a lake which at the first view appears to be an expanse of still water, but which, on a nearer approach, is found to be an extensive plain of mineral pitch, with frequent crevices and chasms filled with water. On its being visited in the autumnal season, the singularity of the scene was so great, that it required some time for the spectators to recover themselves from their surprise, so as to examine it minutely. The surface of the lake was of an ash colour, and not polished or smooth, so as to be slippery, but of such a consistence as to bear any weight. It was not adhesive, although it received in part the impression of the foot, and could be trodden without any tremulous motion, several head of cattle browsing on it in perfect security. In the summer season, however, the surface is much more yieiding, and in a state approaching to fluidity; as is evidenced by pieces of wood and other substances, recently thrown in, having been found enveloped in it. Even large branches of trees, which were a foot above the level, had in some way become enveloped in the bituminous matter. The interstices or chasms are very numerous, ramifying and joining in every direction; and being filled with water in the wet season, present the only obstacle to walking over the surface. These cavities are in general deep in propontion to their width, and many of them unfathomable; the water they contain is uncontaminated by the pitch, and is the abode of a variety of fishes. The arrangement of the chasms is very singular, the sides invariably shelving from the surface, so as nearly to meet at the bottom, and then bulging out towards each other with a considerable degree of convexity. Several of them have been known to close up entirely, without leaving any mark or seam.

The pitch lake of Trinidad contains many islets covered with grass and shrubs, which are the haunts of birds of the most exquisite plumage. Its precise extent cannot, any more than its depth, be readily ascertained, the line between it and the neighboring soil not being well defined; but its main body may be estimated at three miles in circumference. It is bounded on the north and west sides by the sea, on the south by a rocky eminence, and on the east by the usual argillaceous soil of the country.—*Cabinet of Curiosities.*

PALM TREES.

At Manilla, one of the largest of the Philippine islands, palm trees are said to grow in great perfection, and to exhibit no less than forty species. Such is the magnitude of some of them, that a Jesuit missionary having touched there but a few days, had, through the kindness of a friend, a place prepared for him so capacious, that under two palm leaves alone, he was enabled to say mass, and to sleep secure from the most violent rain. The leaves are shaped like a fan with ridges, and so strong, that no rain however weighty can penetrate them.—*Ibid.*

A lover of natural history cannot I think be a bad man, as the very study of it tends to promote a calmness and serenity of mind, favorable to the reception of grateful and holy thoughts of the great and good Parent of the universe. He cannot be a cruel man, because he will be unwilling wantonly to destroy even an insect, when he perceives how curiously each is adapted to its station.—*Jesse.*

ASTRONOMY

TELESCOPIC APPEARANCE OF THE MOON.

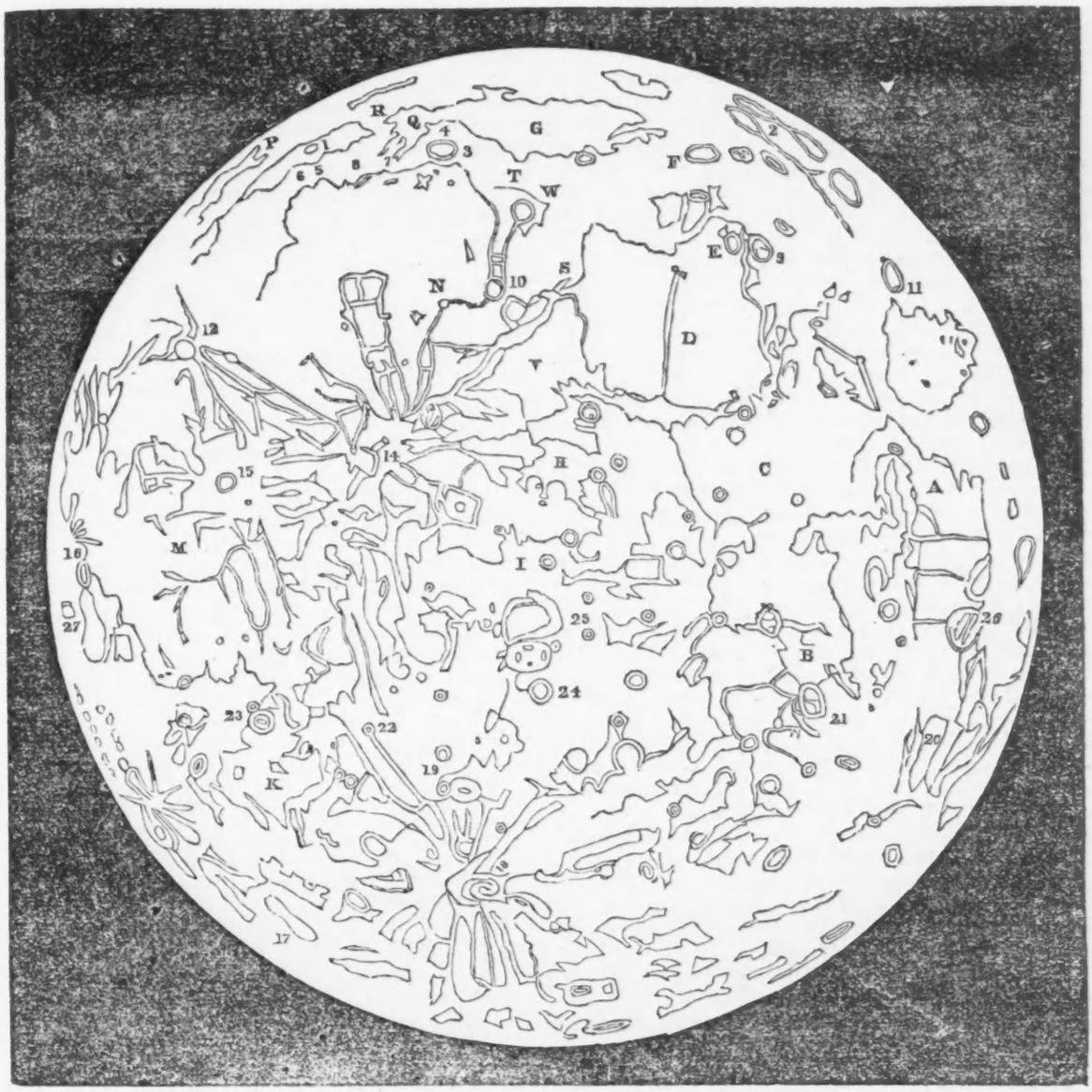
We have the pleasure of introducing to our readers two splendid cuts of the moon, in addition to the one given in our last. They are from the English Penny Magazine, and have come to hand just in season to be introduced in their appropriate time and place. The following description of these cuts is from the same work.

The face presented by the moon to us is very nearly the same at all times. Sometimes, however, a little more of the western side is visible, sometimes a little more of the eastern; sometimes, also, there is a little change on the northern edge of the moon, sometimes on the southern. To these little changes, which resemble a slight motion to and fro like that of a pendulum, the name of *libration* has been given.

Let us suppose, 1stly, that the moon moves round the earth *uniformly*; 2ndly, in the plane of the ecliptic, that is, that the sun, earth, and moon may be always correctly drawn on the paper, it never being necessary to place either of them above or below, and that the paper represents the plane of the earth's orbit called the Ecliptic; 3rdly, that the moon itself moves round an axis perpendicular to the plane of the ecliptic in the course of a month; that is, that though the moon moves round an axis, no point which is above the ecliptic ever comes below it, in consequence of this motion. All these suppositions are near the truth: if they were exactly true, and if the time of rotation of the moon were the same as that of its revolution round the earth, the moon would always present the same face, and there would be no libration. The little variations from these suppositions which actually exist, will serve to explain the latter phenomenon.

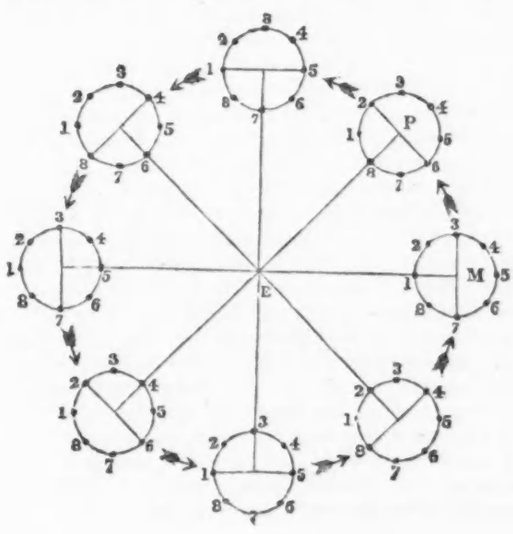
In the diagram of the next page, E is the position of a spectator on the earth, the diurnal motion of which is neglected for the present. The small circles represent the moon, or rather its equator, one hemisphere of the moon being above, and the other below, the paper.—The course of the arrow represents the direction of the *orbital* motion round the earth. The axis of the moon is a perpendicular to the paper, drawn through the centre of the lunar equator. On the moon's equator, eight spots are marked out, by the figures 1, 2, 3, &c. The left-hand diagram represents the supposition that the moon does not move at all upon its axis, and that on the right hand makes her always present exactly the same face towards the spectator. We shall now proceed to details.

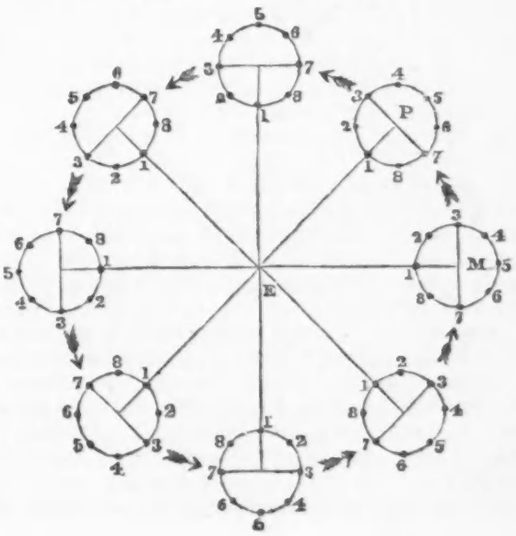
If the moon does not move at all upon her axis, and we take the position M, the face presented to the earth is 32187, 3 being the eastern, and 7 the western point. When we come to the next position, following the



MAP OF THE MOON.

arrows, since the moon has not moved round at all, the spot 3 is still at the top of the figure, but 26 is now the boundary of the face presented to the earth, and 7, which before was only just visible, has advanced considerably towards the east, while 8 is in front of the spectator, instead of 1. Every spot comes successively in front of the spectator, who will in the course of an orbital revolution, or *sidereal* month, see all the parts of the moon's equator in succession; or at least would see them if the half moon were always visible, or if it were always full moon. And hence, since the face *is* always the same, we conclude that the moon is *not* without motion o its axis.





We now come to explain the actual appearance observed, viz. that the moon does always present the same face to the spectator. This is represented in fig. 2, where the spot I is always in front of the spectator, and 37 is always the boundary of the part of the equator presented to view. Hence, when the moon has moved from M to P through an eighth part of a revolution, the line 37 has also made the eighth part of a revolution. and with it the whole moon, round an axis perpendicular to the paper. The revolution is in the same direction as that of the orbital revolution; for while M moves to P, the point 5 moves to the place occupied by 4 in the second position of fig. 1, where there is no revolution round the axis. The same thing is evident from the succeeding positions, whence we have the following proposition; that if the moon moves round the earth uniformly, the continual presentation of the same face to the earth proves that she revolves is upon an axis in the same direction as that in which she moves round the earth, and in the same time.

The librations already described prove the errors of the preceding suppositions, and the smallness of the libration proves also the smallness of those errors. The moon does not move uniformly round the earth, but varies her orbital velocity, and also her distance from the earth. the velocity being greatest where the distance is least, and *vice versa*. Let M be the point at which her distance from the earth is least, or her velocity greatest, and let her move uniformly round her axis in the month as before. She then moves round her axis too slow for the orbital velocity, that is, the lunar day would not be finished in the month if the present rate of orbital motion were kept up. The phenomena arising from this will be in *kind* (though much smaller in *quantity*) the same as those exhibited in fig. 1, in which there is no lunar day at all. That is, some of the western edge of the moon will be thrown into view which was not visible before, and this will continue until the slackening of the orbital motion has brought down the latter to the same as that of the moon on its axis. After this, and up to the point opposite to M, where the orbital rotation is least rapid, the motion round the axis is too quick for the orbital velocity, the western edge begins to disappear, and the eastern to be brought forward, and so on. This alternation is called the *libration in longitude*.—Nextly, the axis of the moon is not exactly perpendicular to the plane of her orbit, being about one degree from the perpendicular. This will produce an effect analogous to that observed in the earth from the sun, which is to us the cause of the change of seasons: during one-half the month, the north pole of the moon will be visible, and the south pole during the other. This change at the north and south disc is called the *libration of latitude*.

Lastly, the spectator is not placed at E, the centre of the earth, but rolls round it by the diurnal motion of the earth. This will, in the course of the day, discover a little of the eastern and western edges in succession, which is called the *diurnal libration*. We shall resume the orbital motion in a future paper, and now proceed to say something of the chart of the moon.

The first map of our satellite was given by Hevelius, in the year 1645. It was the result of three or four year's observations. He at first intended to designate the different spots by the names of distinguished astronomers; but fearing the envy of those whom he might think proper to omit, he preferred using the names of places on the earth. His map accordingly presents various ancient names of places on our globe, disposed according to a fanciful resemblance which he imagined he had found. A large round spot not far from the centre represents Sicily: a chain of smaller spots in the interior of this is Mount Etna, and the island fills up the whole centre of the Mediterranean sea, while the Adriatic is a small bay, about half the size of Sicily, looking towards it, and the Peloponnesus, turning round a corner, divides the Ionian Islands from Mount Athos. This method of describing the situation of the spots was superseded by that of Grimaldi and Riccioli, who preferred the first idea which occurred to Hevelius, and from them it has decended to us. Riccioli, a strenuous opponent of the doctrine of Copernicus, amused himself by placing that astronomer and his followers in situations indicative of the fate he predicted to their opinions.—Copernicus and Galileo are placed in the part which he called the *Sea of Storms*, while Kepler is the capital of the *Island of Winds*.

The plate at the head of this article is reduced from a beautiful engraving of the moon's surface, drawn by Charles Blunt, Esq. and published by Ackermann and Co. Our drawing has been made by Mr. Blunt himself. It represents the full moon in a state of mean libration; that is, the greatest part which ever can be added to the eastern limb by the libration is just equal to the greatest part which, at other times, the western limb receives The lunar equator passes a little above the spots marked 26 and 27; 26 being on the western, and 27 on the eastern side.

The following are the names given to the spots, as numbered on the wood-cut. A number preceded by * denotes a remarkable *annular mountain*, or elevated ring; by † it is indicated that there is a mountain in the centre of the ring; § denotes a remarkable cavity. The letters are attached to the names given by Riccioli to remarkable regions, and relate to ideas which were formed of the state of these regions from their general appearance, for which we need hardly say there is no foundation.

†	1 Pythagoras	§	25 Ptolemy
	2 Endymion		26 Langrenus
*	3 Plato		27 Grimaldus
	4 Aristotle		A Sea of Fertility
	5 Hercules		B Sea of Nectar
	6 Atlas		C Sea of Tranquillity
	7 Heraclides Falsus	*§	D Sea of Serenity
	8 Heraclides Verus		E Lake of Dreams
§	9 Possidonius		F Lake of Death
*	10 Archimedes		G Sea of Cold
	11 Cleomedes		H Sea of Vapours
§	12 Aristarchus		I Bay of Tides
*	13 Eratosthenes		K Sea of Moisture
§	14 Copernicus		M Sea of Storms
	15 Kepler		N Sea of Showers
	16 Hevelius		O Bay of Rainbows
	17 Schickardus		P Bay of Dews
*†§	18 Tycho		Q Land of Hoar Frost
	19 Pitatus		R Land of Drought
	20 Petavius		S Lake of Fogs
	21 Fracastorius		T Land of Hail
§	22 Bullialdus		V Appenine Mountains
*†	23 Gassendus		W Mont Blanc
†	24 Arzachel		

The astronomical phenomena exhibited to the inhabitants of the moon, if such there be, are of a character very different from those of our satellite with regard to us. As nearly the same face is always presented to the earth, it follows, that nearly one half of the moon never sees the earth. Of course, the inhabitants of that half are too wise to believe travellers who come from the other hemisphere, and tell them of a large variegated ball always suspended over the heads of some, always on the right or left hand of others: and if they have as little mental light on the dark side of the moon as we had in Europe two hundred and fifty years ago, there is a vigorous inquisition armed with power sufficient to catch all believers in the earth, and make them recant. On the light side of the moon, there are of course Magazines, which describe the astronomical appearance seen by spectators on the earth, speculate upon its quick rotation, (nearly thirty days to one of the moon,) and wonder whether the inhabitants are themselves aware of, or incommoded by, the rapid rate at which they turn, and whether they swim in the vapours which surround their planet, or live upon them. The earth, when full, appears to an inhabitant of the moon thirteen times as large as the moon appears to us; that

is, its diameter is about 3 6-10 times as large as our apparent lunar diameter. It is always on the same parts of the heaven, when seen from the same part of the moon. At and about the spot marked 1, the earth will be directly overhead; near the edges it will appear upon the horizon. The libration will cause a small oscillatory motion to and fro on the earth, not very perceptible at those parts which have the earth distant from their horizon, but which will, at some spots near the edge, make the earth alternately sink below and rise above the horizon. In consequence of the moon having no atmosphere, or but a very thin one, all celestial objects must be seen with very great distinctness.

M. Quetelet, in his *Astronomie Elementaire*, Paris, 1426, a good work, which ought to be translated, has the following remarks on the appearance of the earth at the moon, which we should rather quote than vouch for, though they may possibly be well founded.

"Our vast continents, our seas, even our forests, are visible to them; they perceive the enormous piles of ice collected at the poles, and the girdle of vegetation which extends on both sides of the equator, as well as the clouds which float over our heads, and sometimes hide us from them. The burning of a town or forest could not escape them, and if they had good optical instruments, they could even see the building of a new town, or the sailing of a fleet."

The lunar day, as we shall afterward see, is equivalent to our actual month of 29 1-2 days: though the rotation of the moon on her axis is performed in the sidereal month of 27 days 8 hours nearly. Hence the inhabitant of the moon sees the sun for 14 3-4 of our days together, which time is followed by a night of the same duration. Of course, the existence of any animal like man is impossible there, as well on this account, as on that of the want of an atmosphere.

The phases which the earth presents to the moon are similar in appearance to those which the moon presents to the earth, but in a different order. Thus, when it is new moon at the earth, it is full earth at the moon; and the contrary. When the moon is in her first quarter, the earth is in its third quarter, and so on; while half-moon at the earth is accompanied by half-earth at the moon.

GHOST STORY.

In the year 1704, a gentleman, to all appearance of large fortune, took furnished lodgings in a house in Soho square. After he had resided there some weeks with his establishment, he lost his brother, who had lived at Hampstead, and who on his death-bed particularly desired to be interred in the family vault in Westminster Abbey. The gentleman requested his landlord to permit him to bring the corpse of his brother to his lodgings, and to make arrangements there for the funeral. The landlord without hesitation signified his compliance.

The body, dressed in a white shroud, was accordingly brought in a very handsome coffin, and placed in the great dining-room. The funeral was to take place the next day, and the lodger and his servants went out to make the necessary preparations for the solemnity. He staid out late, but this was no uncommon thing. The landlord and his family conceiving that they had no occasion to wait for him, retired to bed as usual, about twelve o'clock. One maid-servant was left up to let him in, and to boil some water, which he had desired might be ready for making tea on his return. The girl was accordingly sitting alone in the kitchen, when a tall spectre-looking figure entered, and clapped itself down in a chair opposite to her.

The maid was by no means one of the most timid of her sex; but she was terrified beyond expression, lonely as she was, at this unexpected apparition. Uttering a loud scream, she flew out like an arrow at a side-door, and hurried to the chamber of her master and mistress. Scarcely had she awakened them, and communicated to the whole family some portion of the fright with which she was herself overwhelmed, when the spectre, enveloped in a shroud, and with a death-like paleness, made its appearance, and sat down in a chair in the bedroom, without their having observed how it entered.—The worst of all was, that this chair stood by the door of the bed-chamber, so that not a creature could get away without passing close to the apparition, which rolled its glaring eyes so frightfully, and so hideously distorted its features, that they could not bear to look at it. The master and mistress crept under the bed-clothes, covered with profuse perspiration, while the maid-servant sunk nearly insensible by the side of the bed.

At the same time the whole house seemed to be in an uproar; for, though they had covered themselves over head and ears, they could still hear an incessant noise and clatter, which served to increase their terror.

At length all became perfectly still in the house. The landlord ventured to raise his head, and to steal a glance at the chair by the door; but behold, the ghost was gone! Sober reason began to resume its power. The poor girl was brought to herself after a good deal of shaking. In a short time, they plucked up sufficient courage to quit the bed-room, and to commence an examination of the house, which they expected to find in great disorder. Nor were their anticipations unfounded. The whole house had been stripped by artful thieves, and the gentleman had decamped without paying for his lodging. It turned out he was no other than an accomplice of the notorious Arthur Chambers, who was executed at Tyburn in 1706, and that the supposed corps was this arch rogue himself, who had whitened his hands and face with chalk, and merely counterfeited death.—About midnight, he quitted the coffin, and appeared to the maid in the kitchen. When she flew up stairs, he softly followed her, and, seated at the door of the chamber, he acted as a sentinel, so that his industrious accomplices were enabled to plunder the house without the least molestation.—*Cabinet of Curiosities.*

THE WITCH'S BRIDLE.

In the steeple of Forfar is preserved a curiosity well worth the attention of tourists. It is called "The Witches' Bridle." The form of the object is very simple. A small circle of iron sufficient to enclose the head is divided into four sections, which are connected with hinges. A short chain hangs from behind. In the front, but pointing inwards, is a prong, like the rowel of an old-fashioned spur, which entered the mouth, and, by depressing the tongue, acted as a gag. The use of the thing was exactly what its name portends. By it, as with a bridle, the unfortunate old women formerly burnt at Forfar for the supposed crime of witchcraft, were led out of town to the place of execution. Its further and more important purposes were, to bind the culprit to the stake, and prevent her cries during the dreadful process of death. When all was over, the bridle used to be found among the ashes of the victim.

Picture of Scotland.

SAINT AGNES.

The beautiful Agnes was beheaded at the early age of thirteen, by order of Dioclesian. Her sufferings were most excruciating, from the agitation of her executioner, who wounded her head and shoulders in several places, before he could perform his office. She was descended from a Roman family of rank and opulence, and her festival is celebrated by the Romish church with great pomp and solemnity. The rural damsels in the North are said to practise some singular rites in fasting, which they call St. Agnes's fast, for the purpose of discovering their future husbands.

On sweet St. Agnes' night,
Please you with the promised sight,

Some of husbands, some of lovers,
Which an empty dream discovers.—JOHNSON.

"Upon St. Agnes's night, take a row of pins, and pull out every one, one after another, saying a paternoster, sticking a pin in your sleeve, and you will dream of him or her you shall marry."—*Aubrey.*

It is with nations as with individuals; those who know the least of others think the highest of themselves; for the whole family of pride and ignorance are incestuous, and mutually beget each other. The Chinese affect to despise European ingenuity, but they cannot mend a common watch; when it is out of order, they say it is dead, and barter it away for a living one. The Persians think that all foreign merchants come to them from a small island in the northern waters, barren and desolate, which produces nothing good or beautiful; for why else, say they, do the Europeans fetch such things from us if they are to be had at home. The Turk will not permit the sacred cities of Mecca or Medina to be polluted by the residence or even footstep of a single Christian: and as to the grand Dairo of Japan, he is so holy that the sun is not permitted to have the honour of shining on his illustrious head. As to the king of Malacca, he styles himself lord of the winds; and the Mogul, to be equal with him, titles himself conqueror of the world, and his grandees are denominated rulers of the thunder storm and steersmen of the whirlwind: even the pride of Xerxes, who fettered the sea, and wrote his commands to Mount Athos; or of Caligula, who boasted of an intrigue with the moon—are both surpassed by the petty sovereign of an insignificant tribe in North America, who every morning stalks out of his hovel, bids the sun good-morrow, and points out to him with his finger the course he is to take for the day; and to complete this climax of pride and ignorance, it is well known that the Khan of Tartary, who does not possess a single house under the canopy of heaven, has no sooner finished his repast of mare's milk and horse flesh, than he causes a herald to proclaim from his seat, that all the princes and potentates of the earth have his permission to go to dinner. "The Arab," says Zimmerman, "in the conviction that his caliph is infallible, laughs at the stupid credulity of the Tartar, who holds his lama to be immortal." Those who inhabit Mount Bata believe, that whoever eats a roasted cuckoo before his death is a saint, and, firmly persuaded of the infallibility of this mode of sanctification, deride the Indians, who drag a cow to the bed of a dying person, and pinching her tail, are sure, if by that method they can make the creature void her urine in the face of the patient, he is immediately translated into the third heaven. They scoff at the superstition of the Tartarian princes, who think that their beatification is secure, provided they can eat of the holy excrements of the lama; and the Tartars, in their turn, ridicule the Brahmins, who, for the better purification of their country, require them to eat cow-dung for the space of six months; while these would, one and all, if they were told of the cuckoo method of salvation, as heartily despise and laugh at it. I have cited these ridiculous extravagances to show, that there are two things in which all sects agree; the hatred with which they pursue the errors of others, and the love with which they cling to their own.—*Lacon.*

ROMAN BUTCHER.

THE crimes of Augustus seem to be forgotten by posterity. Suetonius relates, that "when the two other Triumvirs implored him to show mercy to the proscribed, he sternly declared no pardon should be given. Seeing a knight subscribe a paper in his presence, he suspected him of evil designs, and ordered him to be stabbed before his eyes. He conceived a similar suspicion against Gallius, a Prætor, who came to wait upon him, and commanded him to be put to the torture; and when the unfortunate man still continued to assert his innocence, he plucked out his eyes with his own hands, and then caused him to be killed. He murdered many of his prisoners taken in battle in cold blood. He ordered a father and son, taken prisoners at Philippi, to draw lots which should die, or else fight till one was slain. The father offered his life to save his son;—Augustus ordered him to be murdered, and at the same moment the son killed himself. He sent the head of Brutus from Philippi to be thrown at the base of Cæsar's statue." With what title ought the character of that man to be stamped, against whom history records such deeds as these?—*Cabinet of Curiosities.*

POETRY.

THE CAUSE WON.

Two neighbours furiously dispute;
A field the subject of the suit.
Trivial the spot, yet such the rage,
With which the combatants engage,
'Twere hard to tell who covets most
The prize—at whatsoever cost.
The pleadings swell. Words still suffice.
No single word but has its price;
No term but yields some fair pretence
For novel and increas'd expense.

Defendant thus becomes a name
Which he that bore it may disclaim;
Since both, in one description blended,
Are plaintiffs—when the suit is ended.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

A meeting was holden at Tammany Hall on Tuesday evening last, in relation to the subject of imprisonment for debt. Walter Bowne, the late Mayor of the city, presided. Several resolutions were passed, and a memorial was adopted, reprobating in the strongest terms the custom of imprisoning for debt; which resolutions and memorial are to be presented to the Legislature of the State at its next session, as an offset to an attempt which it is expected will be made to repeal the law abolishing such imprisonment.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

A meeting of the friends of immediate emancipation was appointed to be holden at Clinton Hall on Wednesday evening last; but in consequence of strong symptoms of intended disturbance which were manifested, the Hall was not opened. The great body of the people who were assembled, thereupon adjourned to Tammany Hall, where resolutions were passed against immediate abolition. The friends of the measure retired to Chatham-street Chapel, where they organized an Anti-Slavery Society.

REMOVAL.

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